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PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, FEBRUARY, 1947.

This Bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of the Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of February, 1947. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. The information which follows covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for the benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of the total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The February figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 7,394 males and 198 females; the total of 7,592 being an increase of 102 over January, and 4,692 over October.

End of Month.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1946 -	October	..	..	2,814	86	2,900
	November	..	..	3,570	94	3,664
	December	..	..	5,971	168	6,139
1947 -	January	..	..	7,262	228	7,490
	February	..	..	7,394	198	7,592

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes of earlier months; whilst the figures for December and the early months of 1947 are considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February should be the peak for unemployment benefits paid in this State, as employment in some of the seasonal industries increases during March.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of February was 198, compared with 228 for January. The Rockhampton District figure, 93, was 25 less than the number for January, but it was still much higher than the figure for any other District. These females were mostly workers temporarily displaced from meat works. Toowoomba District had 32 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of February, Brisbane 20, Bundaberg 14, and the balance of 39 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, December, January, and February; together with the change during February for each cause. February figures, like those of the two previous months, stress the severity of seasonal unemployment in Queensland.

Cause of Unemployment.	October.	December.	January.	February.	Increase in February.
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	116	105	100	- 5
Inefficiency, incompetence	112	136	131	144	13
Establishment closed, reduction of staff .. ..	491	714	801	854	53
Replaced by re-instated servicemen .. ..	116	134	128	131	3
Shortage of materials ..	130	240	260	252	- 8
Seasonal work and weather conditions .. ..	276	2,363	3,456	3,327	-129
Usual work .. ..	495	781	909	958	49
Discharged or laid off for other reasons .. ..	438	478	484	514	30
Dismissed because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	231	405	413	440	27
Dismissed for other reasons	179	278	302	324	22
Not previously employed ..	323	494	501	548	47
	2,900	6,139	7,490	7,592	102

The number drawing unemployment benefit in February due to seasonal work decreased by 129, but increases in other causes, principally establishment closed or reduction of staff (53) and casual work (49) - both of these causes being connected with the seasonal nature of some Queensland industries, resulted in an increase of 102 for the month from all causes.

Comparison of the total receiving benefit in each district for October and the three latest months is made in the next statement; the change in number for each district is also shown.

<u>District.</u>	<u>October.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>January.</u>	<u>February.</u>	<u>Increase in February.</u>
Ingham .. ..	7	49	209	341	132
Innisfail .. ..	15	195	230	327	97
Brisbane .. ..	1,401	1,963	1,989	2,065	76
Mackay .. ..	229	629	756	799	43
Townsville .. ..	127	335	422	460	38
Ayr .. ..	10	88	231	233	2
Bundaberg .. ..	101	550	596	586	- 10
Cairns .. ..	77	415	536	486	- 50
Rockhampton .. ..	345	853	1,462	1,318	-144

All these areas except Brisbane are sugar or meatworks districts, and they account for 3,639, or 78 per cent. of the total State increase of 4,692 since October, 1946. These districts accounted for 31 per cent. of the State total last October, but in February, with seasonal unemployment still high, their proportion was 60 per cent. A rainy month probably retarded employment in the sugar areas; but the Rockhampton figure shows an improvement due to increased employment in meatworks.

#### Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. I) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. The totals along the bottom of the sheet show the numbers unemployed from each cause while the totals on the right show the numbers unemployed in each district, and the number unemployed per 10,000 population in main groups of districts. Although the Moreton Division numbers are the second highest, they represent a much smaller proportion of the district population than is the case for any other Division, except the Downs and South West. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows high figures for the north coast sugar areas, the central meat areas and the south coast sugar areas.

#### Industries by Districts.

Table No. II shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. The totals at the foot of the sheet give the numbers in each industry group for the State. Food and drink factories have the highest total (30 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit) and the bulk of this is in meatworks and sugar mills. This is followed by agriculture, pastoral, and dairying (23 per cent. of the total) largely sugar workers, building and construction, discharged servicemen and ex-employees of Australian and Allied forces (mostly in Brisbane).

During February in the north coast sugar areas, there was a decrease of 74 from food factories (largely sugar mills), but an increase of 193 from farms. In Rockhampton, food factories (largely meatworks and butter factories) unemployment decreased by 170. In the south coast sugar areas field labour unemployment increased by 22 while unemployment of food and drink factory workers decreased by 59, probably due to increased operations of butter factories. The numbers were well distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville districts.

S. E. SOLOMON.

ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

Brisbane,  
21st May, 1947.



TABLE I. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,  
FEBRUARY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.								Quitted.		Not previously employed.	Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 Population.
Brisbane ..	39	90	420	65	122	137	327	275	201	108	281	2,065	
Ipswich ..	3	7	12	4	7	9	13	7	9	6	17	94	
Moreton ..	42	97	432	69	129	146	340	282	210	114	298	2,159	41
Gympie ..	.	3	5	1	.	3	4	3	.	2	9	30	
Maryborough	1	2	42	4	21	46	34	10	12	9	31	202	
Bundaberg ..	.	3	21	9	14	341	94	7	36	20	41	586	
S.E. Coastal	1	8	68	14	35	390	132	20	48	31	71	818	74
Toowoomba ..	7	6	17	6	18	11	28	38	24	11	11	177	
Warwick ..	.	1	7	1	2	3	5	1	.	4	5	29	
Roma ..	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	2	1	2	.	8	
Charleville	.	.	1	1	2	36	25	2	2	.	2	71	
Downs and S.W.	7	7	25	9	22	50	60	43	27	17	18	285	19
Rockhampton	8	11	84	10	32	817	155	36	34	58	73	1,318	
Emerald ..	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	5	
Longreach ..	.	3	6	2	.	37	3	1	6	3	2	63	
Central ..	8	14	90	14	32	856	158	37	40	62	75	1,386	137
Lockey ..	8	3	12	4	3	569	112	21	22	17	28	799	
Yarr ..	1	.	31	1	.	164	5	5	10	12	4	233	
Nowesville ..	9	13	47	8	6	217	.	87	22	27	24	460	
Wingham ..	.	.	.	1	6	281	38	.	11	3	1	341	
Windsor ..	3	.	22	.	8	245	19	2	15	8	5	327	
Windsor ..	11	2	101	3	3	310	19	9	8	12	8	486	
N. Coastal	32	18	213	17	26	1,786	193	124	88	79	70	2,646	175
Wentworth Towers	7	.	15	8	5	63	37	5	16	14	12	182	
Wentworth ..	2	.	6	.	3	11	28	1	5	5	3	64	
Wentworth ..	1	.	5	.	.	25	10	2	6	2	1	52	
North West	10	.	26	8	8	99	75	8	27	21	16	298	64
TOTAL STATE ..	100	144	854	131	252	3,327	958	514	440	324	548	7,592	70

TABLE II. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,  
FEBRUARY, 1947.

## DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	81	28	197	284	126	143	90	107	176	94	265	119	211	144	2,065
Ipswich ..	5	4	8	16	6	11	1	4	3	10	3	5	10	8	94
Moreton ..	86	32	205	300	132	154	91	111	179	104	268	124	221	152	2,159
Gympie ...	6	1	2	3	5	2	.	1	2	3	.	3	2	.	30
Maryborough	40	7	18	44	10	27	15	6	2	11	.	5	15	2	202
Bundaberg ..	246	29	6	129	8	50	32	9	8	24	2	12	20	11	586
S.E. Coastal	292	37	26	176	23	79	47	16	12	38	2	20	37	13	818
Goowoomba ..	17	5	12	20	35	29	.	7	8	12	6	8	8	10	177
Warwick ..	10	.	1	2	1	3	.	.	1	4	1	.	4	2	29
Yamba ..	4	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	8
Charleville	53	1	.	3	3	6	.	1	.	.	.	2	2	.	71
Downs and S.W.	84	6	13	26	39	39	.	8	9	16	7	12	14	12	285
Rockhampton	96	25	10	863	33	67	48	17	26	29	3	35	41	25	1,318
Mermaid ..	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Longreach ..	39	.	.	2	3	8	.	3	.	1	.	4	.	3	63
Central ..	137	25	10	866	36	75	48	22	26	30	3	39	41	28	1,386
Rocky ..	279	18	9	326	25	59	3	9	6	13	4	13	19	16	799
Traralgon ..	111	11	.	75	7	9	.	4	5	1	2	2	4	2	233
Windsorville ..	31	8	12	219	14	47	19	17	20	11	21	20	14	7	460
Wingham ..	214	3	.	87	6	21	.	4	2	.	.	3	.	1	341
Windsorville ..	186	13	4	60	7	37	5	3	2	1	.	6	2	1	327
Windsorville ..	210	25	2	112	17	53	11	17	3	7	3	14	3	9	486
W. Coastal	1,031	78	27	879	76	226	38	54	38	33	30	58	42	36	2,646
Wentworth Towers	33	11	1	55	7	36	1	5	3	9	2	4	2	13	182
Wentworth ..	11	7	.	4	6	23	.	7	3	2	.	1	.	.	64
Wentworth ..	36	1	.	4	3	4	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	1	52
North West	80	19	1	63	16	63	1	13	6	12	2	5	3	14	298
TOTAL STATE	1,710	197	282	2,310	322	636	225	224	270	233	312	258	358	255	7,592



S/T 1980